



For Immediate Release
 September 19, 2007
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Mosul and Baqubah: A strategic city update

By LuAnne Fantasia
 Gulf Region North District

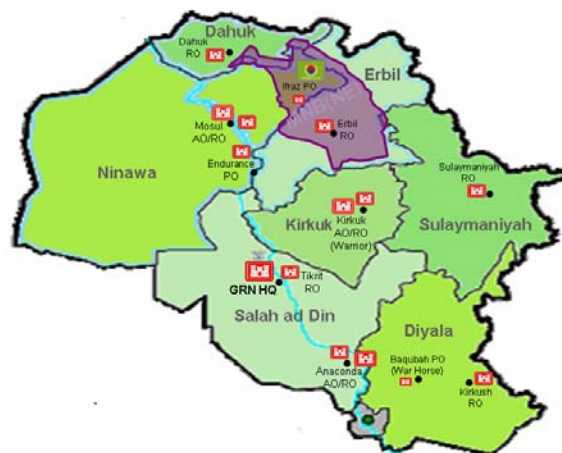
COB Speicher—With project management and construction management responsibilities in seven of Iraq's 18 provinces, the Gulf Region North district of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has far-reaching strategic effect in northern Iraq's four strategic cities.

"Our Reconstruction mission in Iraq is more than bricks and mortar," said Col. Michael F. Pfenning, commander of the Gulf Region North district, or GRN. "It's reconstructing the young Government of Iraq's capability to become self-sufficient and to sustain through rebuilding its infrastructure."

Pfenning said each Iraqi Governorate has GRN's local engineers on the provincial reconstruction team or at one of its Area Offices as their local "go to" person. "The Corps of Engineers is joining the Iraqi people in reconstructing their country, because once the Iraqi people know their government can provide them with basic services, their societal needs will expand in other economic areas," Pfenning said.

Two of GRN's strategic cities—Mosul and Baqubah—benefit today, respectively, from 100 and 24 Reconstruction projects, totaling \$235.5 million.

With a population of 1.7 million residents, Mosul—in the Ninawa Province—is Iraq's third largest city, after Basra and Baghdad. One meaning of the name, Mosul, is "linking point", since the city's epic history as an important commercial center dates back to the 6th century. In recent



history, Mosul's importance as a strategic trading center declined after the Suez Canal opened, which enabled cargoes to travel to and from India by sea rather than by land across Iraq.

Pfenning's Mosul Area and Resident Offices have managed the city's 100 projects at \$140.3 million of the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund, or IRRF. Over 90 projects have started, with 80 completed, 10 ongoing, and 10 projects in pre-construction phases.

In addition to the IRRF projects, another 84 projects are funded through the Commander's Emergency Response Program, or CERP—whereby the combat unit commander works directly with his or her local Iraqi community leaders to address immediate needs. These 84 projects total \$13.3M; with 79 completed and five ongoing.

- One completed oil project in Mosul; funded through CERP \$0.7M; an improvement project for the Ninewa Province's oil infrastructure.

- In electricity, the goal is to provide a reliable supply of electricity to 80 percent of businesses and residences in Mosul. About 80 percent of the homes in Mosul have power approximately 10 hours a day. There are 17 IRRF planned projects valued at \$90.0M; with 16 completed and one ongoing.

- In the Public Works (sewage) and Water sector, the goal is to provide improved and more reliable service with safer drinking water. Approximately 60 percent of homes and businesses in Mosul have potable water and 40 percent have sewage lines. About 42 planned projects total \$4.8M; with 28 complete, seven ongoing, and seven planned but not started.

- There are also 27 CERP projects valued at \$8.3M, with 24 complete and three ongoing.

- More than \$49.6M in facility and/or transportation improvements has been invested in Mosul to date.

Baqubah is the capital of the Diyala Province. Its population is approximately 500,000, and is located about 50 km to the northeast of Baghdad, on the Diyala River. Baqubah is known as the center of Iraq's commercial orange groves.

In spite of the current large-scale offensive, Operation "Arrowhead Ripper," involving more than 10,000 Coalition forces, there is Reconstruction progress.

The Warhorse Resident Office manages 24 planned projects in Baqubah, totaling \$95.2M. Twenty have started; with 17 complete; three ongoing, and four are in

pre-construction phases. There are seven planned, CERP-funded projects, totaling \$1.2M. The goal is to provide a reliable supply of electricity to 100 percent of the homes and businesses in Baqubah. Most houses have power from 6-12 hours, daily, with Iranian power augmenting local power.

- There are nine planned projects valued at \$37.9M to improve the electricity in Baqubah; eight have started; seven are completed; one is ongoing, and one has not started.

- The goal is to provide potable water and sewer services for the majority of businesses and residences in Baqubah. The city pumps river water to the treatment facilities and then into the city via main water lines—servicing roughly 90 percent of Baqubah. Six compact water units supply the rest.

- Roughly 65 percent of the Baqubah population has serviceable sewage lines. The central sewage treatment plant services half of the greater Baqubah area and needs rehabilitation.

- There are six public works and water projects planned for Baqubah at \$25.6M; three are complete and one is ongoing. Another six CERP projects are planned, with five ongoing and one to start.

The US Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq is helping the Iraqi Government assume full responsibility for its national reconstruction, Pfenning added. "We're trying to work ourselves out of a job here."

Note: LuAnne Fantasia is the Public Affairs Officer for the Gulf Region North District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Iraq. For more information, contact her at 540-542-1437 or email requests to CEGRD.PAO@tac01.usace.army.mil. For more information on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq, visit www.grd.usace.army.mil.